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LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, a letter dated 19 March 1993 by His Excellency Mr. Vladislav Jovanovic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 19 March 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Republic of Croatia and the Muslim forces of Alija Izetbegovic continue to interfere with the efforts of the United Nations to resolve the problems, through negotiations and in a peaceful manner, in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, in particular to end the bloody war in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and create the conditions for the extension of the mandate of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the United Nations protected areas. They particularly seek to engage the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the war and thus provoke foreign military intervention. To achieve those ends, the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been constantly threatened and its sovereignty violated by naked aggression over a long period of time, especially when important negotiations were under way or crucial agreements to be reached. The Security Council has been duly informed in the past few months about it with a request that such aggressive conduct and the escalation of the conflict be prevented.

However, the Republic of Croatia and the Muslim leadership of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to pursue their aggressive policies. Throughout March, the Bosnian Muslims attempted several times to infiltrate terrorist groups in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Those have been identified and prevented at the right time. In the nights between 3 and 4 and 10 and 11 March, powerful terrorist groups clandestinely crossed the Drina River but were intercepted just in time before they could proceed with their bloody intentions. Furthermore, on 12 March around 4.15 p.m., the Muslim forces shelled downtown Banja Koviljaca in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In addition to extensive structural damage to civilian targets, one person was killed and another wounded. As you are aware, a team of United Nations military observers is currently in Banja Koviljaca coordinating the humanitarian effort to deliver relief to the Muslims in eastern Bosnia.

As you have been already informed, the Republic of Croatia also persists with armed provocations on the border with the Republic of Montenegro in addition to more open violations of the Prevlaka peninsula status, the territory under United Nations protection. In his letter of 24 February, my predecessor informed the Security Council of the armed provocations of 19 and 20 February 1993 in this area, which resulted in loss of life. Similar provocations occurred on 7, 8 and 11 March when the Army of Croatia, from their positions in the area of villages Dubravka and Pelinovo Brdo, attacked with artillery and tank fire the units of the Army of Yugoslavia located in the area of Sitnica village. There was no response to those provocations and the United Nations military observers were duly informed.

Mr. President, I note with regret that so far effective measures by the Security Council have failed to materialize with a view to putting an end to the aggression of the Muslims and the Republic of Croatia against the territory of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro respectively. Moreover, the Security Council has completely ignored those problems.

We, therefore, follow such developments with deep concern. In the interest of peace, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has continued to make the greatest sacrifice and desisted from adequately responding to armed provocations. That, however, cannot go on interminably. Consequently, I once again appeal to the Security Council to seriously consider those problems and undertake appropriate measures to prevent further armed conflicts.

I should be grateful if you would inform the members of the Security Council of the contents of this letter and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Federal Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the Federal
Republic of Yugoslavia